

Abstract

An animal model for inflammatory bowel disease is described. The model is based on a mammal not expressing a functional *mdr1a* gene product, or wherein the *mdr1a* gene product is inhibited, which develops inflammatory bowel disease when
5 subjected to elevated chlorine concentrations, e.g. given chlorinated drinking water. Methods of screening for compounds useful for the treatment of inflammatory bowel disease, as well as methods to identify, for example, new targets for new compounds for the treatment of inflammatory bowel disease are also described.